

REPLY TO OFFICE ACTION**In the Claims**

Please cancel claims 39-139 without prejudice and add new claims 158-185 as follows:

158. (New) A method for facilitating the origination and sale of loans and lines of credit, comprising the steps of:

receiving from a first party an application for a loan or line of credit;

receiving from a second party at least one criterion for making a loan or line of credit;

matching the application to the at least one criterion in order to provide a first closed loan or line of credit;

collecting first statistics on the application, the at least one criterion, and the first closed loan or line of credit;

providing at least a portion of the first statistics to a third party;

receiving from the third party an offer to sell a second closed loan or line of credit, wherein the offer describes the second closed loan so that at least one closing criterion of the second closed loan can be identified;

providing at least a portion of the first statistics to a fourth party;

enabling the second closed loan to be evaluated by the fourth party based upon the at least one closing criterion;

receiving from the fourth party a bid to buy the closed loan or line of credit;

matching the offer and the bid to provide a sold loan or line of credit;

calculating first fees earned for the matching of the application and the at least one criterion;

calculating second fees earned for the providing of the first statistics to the third party;

calculating third fees earned for the providing of the first statistics to the fourth party;

calculating fourth fees earned for the matching of the offer and the bid;

and

offsetting at least a portion of fees due based upon at least one of the first fees, the second fees, the third fees, and the fourth fees.

159. (New) The method of claim 158, wherein at least one of the first fees, the second fees, the third fees, and the fourth fees are calculated from a predetermined pricing schedule.

160. (New) The method of claim 158, wherein the step of offsetting comprises remitting back at least a portion of the first fees, the second fees, the third fees, and the fourth fees.

C' 161. (New) The method of claim 158, wherein the step of offsetting comprises counting as credits at least a portion of the first fees, the second fees, the third fees, and the fourth fees.

162. (New) The method of claim 161, wherein the credits expire after a given period of time.

163. (New) The method of claim 158, wherein the step of offsetting comprises reducing at least one of the first fees, the second fees, the third fees, and the fourth fees based upon the amount of the fees due.

164. (New) The method of claim 158, further comprising the step of identifying the second party to the first party after matching the application to the at least one criterion.

165. (New) The method of claim 164, further comprising the step of identifying to the first party at least one other party corresponding to at least one criterion that matched the application.

166. (New) The method of claim 158, further comprising the step of identifying the first party to the second party after matching the application to the at least one criterion.

167. (New) The method of claim 158, wherein the matching of the application to the at least one criterion comprises identifying a loan or line of credit with the best combination of interest rate, fees, and terms.

168. (New) The method of claim 158, further comprising selling the first statistics to a fifth party.

169. (New) The method of claim 158, further comprising collecting second statistics on the offer, the bid, and the sold loan or line of credit.

170. (New) The method of claim 169, further comprising selling the second statistics to a fifth party.

171. (New) The method of claim 158, wherein the offer to sell the second closed loan or line of credit is based upon at least a portion of the first statistics.

172. (New) A method for facilitating the origination and sale of loans and lines of credit, comprising the steps of:

receiving from a first party an application for a loan or line of credit;

receiving from a second party at least one criterion for making a loan or line of credit;

matching the application to the at least one criterion in order to provide a first closed loan or line of credit;

collecting first statistics on the application, the at least one criterion, and the first closed loan or line of credit;

providing at least a portion of the first statistics to a third party;

including a second closed loan or line of credit in a pool of loans or lines of credit;

receiving from the third party an offer to sell the pool of loans or lines of credit, wherein the offer describes at least one closed loan in the pool so that at least one closing criterion of the at least one closed loan can be identified;

providing at least a portion of the first statistics to a fourth party;
enabling the pool to be evaluated by the fourth party based upon the at least one closing criterion;

receiving from the fourth party a bid to buy the pool;
matching the offer and the bid to provide a sold pool;
calculating first fees earned for the matching of the application and the at least one criterion;

calculating second fees earned for the providing of the statistics to the second party;

calculating third fees earned for the providing of the statistics to the fourth party;

calculating fourth fees earned for the matching of the offer and the bid;
and

offsetting at least a portion of fees due based upon at least one of the first fees, the second fees, the third fees, and the fourth fees.

173. (New) The method of claim 172, wherein at least one of the first fees, the second fees, the third fees, and the fourth fees are calculated from a predetermined pricing schedule.

174. (New) The method of claim 172, wherein the step of offsetting comprises remitting back at least a portion of the first fees, the second fees, the third fees, and the fourth fees.

175. (New) The method of claim 172, wherein the step of offsetting comprises counting as credits at least a portion of the first fees, the second fees, the third fees, and the fourth fees.

176. (New) The method of claim 175, wherein the credits expire after a given period of time.

177. (New) The method of claim 172, wherein the step of offsetting comprises reducing at least one of the first fees, the second fees, the third fees, and the fourth fees based upon the amount of the fees due.

C/ 178. (New) The method of claim 172, further comprising the step of identifying the second party to the first party after matching the application to the at least one criterion.

179. (New) The method of claim 178, further comprising the step of identifying to the first party at least one other party corresponding to at least one criterion that matched the application.

180. (New) The method of claim 172, further comprising the step of identifying the first party to the second party after matching the application to the at least one criterion.

181. (New) The method of claim 172, wherein the matching of the application to the at least one criterion comprises identifying a loan or line of credit with the best combination of interest rate, fees, and terms.

182. (New) The method of claim 172, further comprising selling the first statistics to a fifth party.

183. (New) The method of claim 172, further comprising collecting second statistics on the offer, the bid, and the sold pool.

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184. (New) The method of claim 183, further comprising selling the second statistics to a fifth party.

185. (New) The method of claim 172, wherein the offer to sell the pool is based upon at least a portion of the first statistics.

REMARKS

Summary Of Office Action

Claims 39-139 were pending in this application.

The Examiner rejected claims 1, 3, 4, 7-17, and 19 under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Fraser et al. United States Patent No. 5,995,947 (hereinafter "Fraser") in view of Zandi United States Patent No. 5,966,699 (hereinafter "Zandi"), Gottesman et al. United States Patent No. 6,049,782 (hereinafter "Gottesman"), and IMEX (February 1999) (hereinafter "IMX").

Summary Of Applicant's Reply

Applicant has canceled claims 39-139 without prejudice and added new claims 158-185 in order to more particularly define the invention. Applicant respectfully submits that these new claims are allowable over the references of record, add no new matter, and are fully supported and justified by the specification and drawings.

The Telephonic Interviews

On January 22, 2003 and March 31, 2003, the Examiner conducted telephonic interviews with the undersigned and the applicant in connection with this case and related Application No. 09/178,400. Applicant and the undersigned express their appreciation to the Examiner for his time and courtesy in conducting these interviews.